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NWCG Smoke Committee June 2013 Activity Update



Outreach and Messaging

Mike is updating MyFireCommunity website.

2013 International Smoke Symposium (ISS)

Plenary Speakers

- First day will be policy focused with hopefully Robert Bonnie (USDA Senior Advisor for Environment and Climate and Gina McCarthy (EPA Administrator OAR) both invited
 - Afternoon international climate focus with hopes for person to speak about global scale of fire, trends and climate and another on the effects globally of fire on climate and air quality on a global scale.
- Second day will be science focused (latest health effects and fire effects on climate change).
- Third day aimed at implementation (how to address the impacts of fire smoke and needs for fire). Pete will talk to Amy Royden-Bloom/NACAA to explain how we would like Bill Becker to present from a national regulatory implementation perspective

Papers

- Working on broad science, health impacts, emissions, policy, mitigation, response and climate oriented papers.
- Both NM and Missoula health departments have submitted papers.

Panels

- Susan Stone (EPA) interested in a panel on revising the Wildfire Guide for Public Health Officials.
- Nick to contact Brian Finneran (OR DEQ) in leading a panel on NW wildfire smoke protocol.
- Susan is following up w/Sarah from ID DEQ, regarding panel (gave a great presentation in WA).
- We will need moderators.
- o Proposed: SERDIP (DoD) track proposed.
- Proposed: Transportation and Safety track (Gary).

Outreach:

- There has been a lot of exposure on various calendars for this including AFE and NACAA.
- Diana outreached to Amy Royden-Bloom (NACAA). Amy has sent out the announcement to 500
 members and will send to the chairs of other committees to determine their level of interest.
- o Public health officials and medical community has been receiving outreach for this symposium.
- Want to make sure we get our message to NASF, public/municipal fire personnel, Departments of Transportation, if anyone has communication channels please send them information.
- The call is out for workshops on the Monday October 21, proposals due July 12th.

Funding:

- Registration Information will be sent out in July pending funding proposals.
- Secured JFSP and NWCG funding draft agreement in place.
- o Pete working with Mikel on a \$39K agreement with the Forest Service for this Symposium.
- o Funding needed prior to commitment to a virtual Symposium.

Issues

Mark will call Mikel regarding the registration issue for special sessions that erases abstracts.

Air Resource Advisor and wildfire air quality response program updates

- Dispatched ARAs and trainees are posted on a public Google calendar showing incident/location.
- There is a single phone number for ARAs (661)GET-1ARA or (661)438-1272.
- There are approximately 15 people listed as qualified ARAs and 10 trainees, along with a couple more folks who are interested in assisting.
- Mike Broughton deployed to the West Fork Complex things have calmed in the last couple days;
 He has utilized the GOES satellite-linked E-Samplers.
- People are using the existing BlueSky system no special runs that Pete is aware of.
 - o A new version of BlueSky is coming out AIRFIRE.org very soon.
 - There is a need for a one pager on BlueSky (Susan).



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- Looking into ways to institutionalize information transfer from assignments and different states for ARA's and states - need to have a lessons learned exchange system.
- E-Samplers to be calibrated after each deployment which has led to some availability issues.

Possible SmoC and EPA call on the new AirNow Nowcast approach

- Soft rollout of the EPA's AirNow Nowcast (public current (3hr avg. air quality portion of AirNow).
- Anticipate a webinar with the EPA on this, hopefully before August.

Presentation: Tim Watkins - Next Generation Air Monitoring (EPA/ORD)

- Tim is the Deputy National Program Director, Air Climate Energy Research.
- EPA-ORD's work for the NGAM program (Next Generation Air Monitoring) with close coordination with Offices of Air and Radiation and Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.
- Scope: required measurements and resources needed are increasing as available resources and capability are declining. New technology is making it easier to monitor. Goal is to develop, evaluate, and apply these new methods.
- Will describe sensors, satellites, and 'data fusion' to fill in some data gaps.
- Seeing increasing technology, declining costs, and a more involved public active with smaller, more portable monitors.
- DRAFT EPA roadmap for next generation monitoring: https://sites.google.com/site/airsensors2013/final-materials
 - Cross Cutting Areas of Focus: Technology Development, Testing, Integration,
 Technology Demonstration, Outreach and Communication, IT infrastructure, and New Data Streams.
 - For Each Area of Focus on Major Findings/Conclusions, Recommendations/Gaps, Short and Long Term Priorities, Implementation Strategy.
- Village Green Project: sensors designed to make low cost measurements publically available.
- Source monitoring: posting sensors around the perimeter of a facility and use mobile monitoring to move about the facility.
- EPA did an open call from sensor developers looking at the quality of sensor measurement and will be releasing results soon (excluding confidential info).
- Future intent of these technologies: we are a ways from NAAQS compliance monitoring, but CairClip did very well and was very close to federal equivalency status, so it seems feasible in the future, but not right now.
- Tim will send Pete a link to the Village Green project that has details on how they are moving the data for that, as well as some targeted contacts for some of the commercial folks involved in this research.

NWCG Business

- Elaine posted the International Smoke Symposium call for papers through NWCG channels.
- Elaine sent Pete 2 submitted projects from Risk Management Committee that could potentially mesh w/SmoC objectives, will be sent to SmoC for review and comment back to Elaine.
 - Smoke modeling assessment of low level fuel.
 - Roadway safety related transportation project.
- Mark submitted CESU grant to Denver office \$50K allocation for U of Idaho now complete.
- NWCG eShare schedule:
 - July 25 NWCG budget review.
 - o June 27 on glossary and committee updates.
 - Aug NWCG data standards.
- Allen Deitz to retire soon will hire a contractor for publication review.

Next steps for Marko Princevac's Superfog model (SAM) (JFSP project 09-1-04-05) - Cindy Huber

• Superfog project - what the different causal factors are & develop a model to predict the formation and risk of Superfog.

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- Marco is interested in conducting a webinar to tell people about the tool, helping people run it, and potentially make modifications if needed.
- Gary is interested in downloading and running this tool, we may need multiple versions to accommodate different operating systems.
- SmoC unaware of status of running the model.
- Cindy has sent outreach messages.

Six Minutes for Safety - Daily Safety Messages from NWCG's Risk Management Committee

- Smoke Exposure and Smoke and Roads one-pagers sent out in a periodic rotation.
- Gary submitted comments on the Smoke on Roads message based on SmoC IRPG input
- Pete discussed Basic Smoke Management Practice Six Minutes for Safety with Tony. (RMC)
- Tony and the group are open to this SmoC will need to match the format.

NACAA

- Diana emailed 2013 ISS Call for Papers to NACAA distributed to Criteria Pollutant and Agriculture committees.
- Other committees could benefit from attending or contributing to the Symposium (monitoring, air toxics, and public outreach). Amy will send info to committee co-chairs for distribution.
- Diana relayed Pete's offer to speak on BSMPs on a NACAA call. Offer was accepted.

Subcommittee Report-outs:

Smoke Technical Topics

- SMG is progressing.
- Need to make arrangements with Allen Deitz on NWCG printing before retirement.
- Susan summarizing report on PM monitoring and emissions inventories.

Smoke Training

 Working group making revisions on Transportation Safety script. Goal is to have revision completed by next SmoC training call at the end of July.

Smoke Managers

• No new business to report.

Round Robin Topics

- Gary attended the Southern Fire Chiefs Meeting. They were receptive to the ARA position and role, discussed points on the products we are working on with ESP and the NWS point forecast.
 - o They were not aware of our outreach materials. Need to improve distribution of materials.
- Mark invited WRAP DEASCO3 a JFSP project to present on one of our SmoC calls, maybe 8/22.
 - Co-sponsorship of webinar by SmoC and WRAP.
- National Air Monitor Cache: All the units are in use right now (15 of 15 as of early June).
 - Could locate these devices in a FS cache nearest to the MetOne facility.
 - o Another option is 2 caches: one east & one west.
- Pete met with Andy Trent (FS-MTDC) and DRI on data posting from GOES network; DRI thought they could push data from these devices to EPA AirNow Tech.
- AirNow Tech Version 2 will be a future EPA webinar for a joint ARA/SmoC call.
- EPA has gone to MetOne and obtained a listing for all the purchasers in CA. The state is working on a list so units could be shared during emergencies.
 - Gary has done this work in the Southeast attempting to ease sharing of these resources.
 - SmoC may have a call on this topic; there will be a lot of work needed to share resources, probably in the form of a national policy and agreement for emergencies. Gary will bring up the topic of Esampler sharing on a national scale to keep up the discussion.
- Annual NOAA HYSPLIT training will be in September in MD.
- JFSP trying to find the best way to communicate products and findings to stakeholder groups such as SmoC How does SmoC get information on JFSP research projects? Would it be useful to have a project summary sheet with purpose, findings, etc.



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- SmoC has a spot on emerging science in our web resources, and a one-page summary would be useful to SmoC and those who use our communications.
- Idea: Annual summary on smoke management webinar that people could briefly present the latest scientific findings.
- The 2008 Wildfire AQ guide for Public Health Officials has a 2013 table with latest AQI values.
- AZ & NM are dealing with a number of wildfires; CO has several fire warnings out.
 - o NMFireinfo.com online blog site information source for NM wildfires.
 - Monitors have generally not been reading high. Silver Fire on the Gila may have higher smoke concentrations based on HYSPLIT runs. Will affect people more in the evening.
- Best way to order monitors is through the ROSS system.
- AIRFIRE received some funding this year and has 7 EBAMS at the Seattle Lab. It would be best
 to deploy as geographically close the Seattle lab as possible, but they are here if the need is
 really pressing.
 - o AIRFIRE.org daily outputs for Bluesky runs & more info for products that are available.
 - Possible webinar will be the week of July 8, probably on the 10th
 - Susan discussed National scale w/Sim at 12 km; not sure where we are at w/4km scale.
- OR has put out its wildfire protocol, it is posted in the ARA dropbox site.
- States of ID and WA are working on independent wildfire protocols. Not sure what the impact on the MT/ID protocols will be.
- The NWS has sent some images on fine grid fire weather forecasting available in the US.
- San Joaquin APCD will no longer be a NACAA member. We would like to maintain San Joaquin's involvement in our calls so they will be our local regulatory representative.
- Nick Yonker and others will be looking at pile burn emissions and the impact of burning dry fuels cured by being covered with a layer of polyethylene vs. wetter uncovered piles.
 - Mostly measuring particulate matter, not including black carbon at this time.
- AAPCA Pete had a conversation with Bob Hodanbasi of OH EPA who is acting Exec. Director.
- DRI WRCC study on mixing heights is pushed back to the end of July.
 - o According to Gary, Stuhl is working better than modified-Stuhl so far.
- AMS Forest and Fire Meteorology Conference has extended their call for papers to June 10th (only had 10 submittals thus far).